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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Sub-Commission on Prevention of
Discrimination and Protection
of Minorities
Forty-fourth session
Item 13 of the provisional agenda

ENCOURAGEMENT OF UNIVERSAL ACCEPTANCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS INSTRUMENTS

Note by the Secretary-General

1. At its thirty-second session, the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities adopted its resolution 1 B (XXXII) of 5 September 1979, by which it decided to establish each year a sessional working group composed of five members of the Sub-Commission, with due regard to equitable geographical distribution, to consider ways and means of encouraging Governments which had not yet done so to ratify or accede to international human rights instruments such as: the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination; the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide; the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid; the Slavery Convention; the Protocol amending the Slavery Convention signed at Geneva on 25 September 1926; the Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery; ard such other instruments as might be designated in the future by the Sub-Commission.

2. In the same resolution, the Sub-Commission requested the Secretary-General, well before the annual sessions of the Sub-Commission, to write to Governments which had not yet accepted the above-mentioned instruments and other such instruments as might be designated in the future, requesting them to inform the Sub-Commission of the circumstances which so far

had not enabled them to ratify or accede to those instruments and to explain any particular difficulties they might face, in respect of which the United Nations could offer any assistance; invited the sessional Working Group of the Sub-Commission to examine the replies received from Governments; and requested the Working Group to consider, in appropriate cases, what forms of assistance could be provided to Governments by the United Nations, with a view to assisting them to ratify or adhere to the above-mentioned conventions as speedily as possible.

3. Following the recommendations of the sessional Working Group, the Sub-Commission, by its resolutions 1982/3 of 7 September 1982, 1983/27 of 6 September 1983, 1984/36 of 30 August 1984, 1985/5 of 27 August 1985 and 1990/24 of 31 August 1990 respectively, decided to include the Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the two Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the Convention on the Rights of the Child in the list of instruments contained in paragraph 1 of its resolution 1 B (XXXII). It also decided, until further review of its mandate, to suspend the work of the Working Group on the Encouragement of Universal Acceptance of Human Rights Instruments and to request the Chairman of the Sub-Commission to appoint one of its members to report to it at its fortieth session on information received under the same resolution.

4. At its forty-second session, the Sub-Commission, by resolution 1990/24 of 31 August 1990, again requested its Chairman to appoint one of its members to report to it at its forty-fourth session on this subject. In the same resolution, the Sub-Commission requested the Secretary-General to renew the invitation for submission of information communicated by his earlier notes verbales to the Governments of Member States which had not yet replied to those communications, making particular reference to the human rights instruments to which those Governments had not yet become party and drawing the attention of each Government to the instruments which it had already signed but not yet ratified. Additionally, it requested the Secretary-General to update the table containing a country-by-country record of developments relating to ratification of, or accession to, the human rights instruments included in the terms of reference of the Sub-Commission.

5. The Secretary-General, by his note dated 30 April 1991, brought to the attention of the Governments concerned Sub-Commission resolution 1990/24 and invited them to submit their information, by 31 December 1991, for consideration by the Sub-Commission at its forty-fourth session.

6. Furthermore, on the occasion of his official contacts with Member States which had not yet ratified or acceded to the various instruments mentioned in the Sub-Commission resolutions, the Secretary-General has repeatedly urged them to do so and has offered the assistance of the United Nations in helping to overcome any special difficulties in that regard. Similarly, the Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights, on the occasion of his contacts with Member States, has also drawn attention to the importance of the universal acceptance of human rights instruments and to the availability of appropriate assistance under the programme of advisory services and technical assistance

of the Centre for Human Rights. In addition, the representatives of States not yet parties to international human rights instruments who have attended the various regional and subregional human rights seminars and training courses organized by the Centre have been strongly encouraged to promote ratification or accession to those instruments by their Governments.

7. No information has been received from States in reply to the note by the Secretary-General dated 30 April 1991.

8. Pursuant to resolution 1990/24 of the Sub-Commission, the Secretary-General submits, in the annex to the present note, a table containing a record of developments which have taken place in connection with the ratification of or accession to human rights instruments since the closure of the forty-second session of the Sub-Commission (31 August 1990).

Annex

TABLE CONTAINING A RECORD, AS OF 25 JUNE 1992, OF THE RATIFICATIONS OF OR ACCESSIONS TO HUMAN RIGHTS INSTRUMENTS THAT HAVE TAKEN PLACE SINCE THE CLOSURE OF THE FORTY-SECOND SESSION OF THE SUB-COMMISSION (31 August 1990)

State	Date of receipt of the instrument of ratification or accession
1. International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights	
Albania	6 October 1991
Angola a/	10 January 1992
Benin a/	12 March 1992
Brazil a/	24 January 1992
Cambodia a/	26 May 1992
Côte d'Ivoire	26 March 1992
Estonia a/	21 October 1991
Grenada	6 September 1991
Israel	3 October 1991
Latvia	14 April 1992
Lithuania	20 November 1991
Malta	13 September 1990
Nepal a/	13 May 1991
Paraguay a/	10 June 1992
Seychelles a/	5 May 1992
Switzerland a/	18 June 1992
Zimbabwe a/	13 May 1991
2. International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights	
Albania	4 October 1991
Angola a/	10 January 1992
Benin a/	12 March 1992
Brazil a/	24 January 1992
Cambodia a/	26 May 1992
Côte d'Ivoire	26 March 1992
Estonia a/	21 October 1991
Grenada a/	6 September 1991
Guatemala	5 May 1992
Haiti a/	6 February 1991
Israel a/	3 October 1991
Latvia a/	14 April 1992
Lithuania a/	20 November 1991
Malta a/	13 September 1990
Nepal	14 May 1991
Paraquay a/	10 June 1992
Seychelles a/	5 May 1992
Switzerland a/	18 June 1992
United States of America	8 June 1992
Zimbabwe a/	13 May 1991

State	Date of receipt of the instrument of ratification or accession
3. Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights	
Angola a/	10 January 1992
Australia a/	25 September 1991
Benin a/	12 March 1992
Bulgaria a/	26 March 1992
Cyprus a/	15 April 1992
Chile	28 May 1992
Czech and Slovak Federal Republic a/	12 March 1991
Estonia a/	21 October 1991
Lithuania a/	20 November 1991
Malta a/	13 September 1990
Mongolia a/	16 April 1991
Nepal a/	14 May 1991
Poland a/	7 November 1991
Russian Federation a/	10 September 1992
Seychelles a/	5 May 1992
Ukraine a/	25 July 1991
4. International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination	
Zimbabwe a/	13 May 1991
5. Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide	
Estonia	21 October 1991
Zimbabwe a/	13 May 1991
6. International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid	
Estonia a/	21 October 1991
Oman	22 August 1991
Zimbabwe a/	13 May 1991
7. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women	
Burundi	8 January 1992
Central African Republic a/	21 June 1991
Estonia a/	21 October 1991
Israel	3 October 1991
Malta a/	8 March 1991
Nepal	22 April 1991
Netherlands	23 July 1991
Zimbabwe a/	13 May 1991

State	Date of receipt of the instrument of ratification or accession
8. Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949	
Australia	21 June 1991
Brazil a/	5 May 1992
Brunei a/	14 October 1991
Canada	20 November 1990
Chile	24 April 1991
Croatia	11 May 1992 b/
Djibouti a/	8 April 1991
Germany	14 February 1991
Latvia a/	24 December 1991
Madagascar	8 May 1992
Malawi a/	7 October 1991
Maldives a/	3 September 1991
Paraguay a/	30 November 1990
Poland	23 October 1991
Portugal	27 May 1992
Slovenia	26 March 1992 b/
Uganda a/	13 March 1991
9. Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment	
Benin	12 March 1992
Cyprus	18 July 1991
Germany	1 October 1990
Indonesia	3 October 1991
Israel	3 October 1991
Jordan	13 November 1991
Latvia	14 April 1992
Liechenstein a/	2 November 1990
Malta a/	13 September 1990
Monaco a/	6 December 1991
Romania	18 December 1990
Seychelles	5 May 1992
Venezuela	29 July 1991
Yemen	5 November 1991
Yugoslavia	10 September 1991
10. Convention on the Rights of the Child	
Albania	27 February 1992
Angola	5 December 1990
Argentina	4 December 1990
Australia	17 December 1990
Bahamas	20 February 1991

State	Date of receipt of the instrument of ratification or accession
Bahrain a/	13 February 1992
Bangladesh	3 August 1990
Barbados	9 October 1990
Belarus	1 October 1990
Belgium	16 December 1991
Belize	2 May 1990
Benin	3 August 1990
Bhutan	1 August 1990
Bolivia	26 June 1990
Brazil	24 September 1990
Bulgaria	3 June 1991
Burkina Faso	31 August 1990
Burundi	19 October 1990
Canada	13 December 1991
Central African Republic	23 April 1992
Chad	2 October 1990
Chile	13 August 1990
China	2 March 1992
Colombia	28 January 1991
Costa Rica	21 August 1990
Côte d'Ivoire	4 February 1991
Cuba	21 August 1991
Cyprus	7 February 1991
Czech and Slovak Federal Republic	7 January 1991
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	21 September 1990
Denmark	19 July 1991
Djibouti	6 December 1990
Dominica	13 March 1991
Dominican Republic	11 June 1991
Ecuador	23 March 1990
Egypt	6 July 1990
El Salvador	10 July 1990
Equatorial Guinea a/	15 June 1992
Estonia a/	21 October 1991
Ethiopia a/	14 May 1991
Finland	20 June 1991
France	7 August 1990
Gambia	8 August 1990
Germany	6 March 1992
Ghana	5 February 1990

State	Date of receipt of the instrument of ratification or accession
Grenada	5 November 1990
Guatemala	6 June 1990
Guinea a/	13 July 1990
Guinea Bissau	20 August 1990
Guyana	14 January 1991
Holy See	20 April 1990
Honduras	10 August 1990
Hungary	7 October 1991
Indonesia	5 September 1990
Israel	3 October 1991
Italy	5 September 1991
Jamaica	14 May 1991
Jordan	24 May 1991
Kenya	30 July 1990
Kuwait	21 October 1991
Lao People's Democratic Republic a/	8 May 1991
Latvia a/	14 April 1992
Lebanon	14 May 1991
Lesotho	10 March 1992
Lithuania a/	31 January 1992
Madagascar	19 March 1991
Malawi a/	2 January 1991
Maldives	11 February 1991
Mali	20 September 1990
Malta	30 September 1990
Mauritania	16 May 1991
Mauritius a/	26 July 1990
Mexico	21 September 1990
Mongolia	5 July 1990
Myanmar a/	15 July 1991
Namibia	30 September 1990
Nepal	14 September 1990
Nicaragua	5 October 1990
Niger	30 September 1990
Nigeria	19 April 1991
Norway	8 January 1991
Pakistan	12 November 1990
Panama	12 December 1990
Paraguay	25 September 1990
Peru	4 September 1990

State	Date of receipt of the instrument of ratification or accession
Philippines	21 August 1990
Poland	7 June 1991
Portugal	21 September 1990
Republic of Korea	20 November 1991
Romania	28 September 1990
Russian Federation	16 August 1990
Rwanda	24 January 1991
Saint Kitts and Nevis	24 July 1990
San Marino a/	25 November 1991
Sao Tomé and Principe a/	14 May 1991
Senegal	31 July 1990
Seychelles a/	7 September 1990
Sierra Leone	18 June 1990
Spain	6 December 1990
Sri Lanka	12 July 1991
Sudan	3 August 1990
Sweden	29 June 1990
Thailand a/	27 March 1992
Togo	1 August 1990
Trinidad and Tobago	5 December 1991
Tunisia	30 January 1992
Uganda	17 August 1990
Ukraine	28 August 1991
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	16 December 1991
United Republic of Tanzania	10 June 1991
Uruguay	20 November 1990
Venezuela	13 September 1990
Viet Nam	28 February 1990
Yemen	1 May 1991
Yugoslavia	3 January 1991
Zaire	27 September 1990
Zambia	5 December 1991
Zimbabwe	11 September 1990

Notes

a/ Accession.

b/ Date of receipt of notification of succession.